

B1 concluded

wherein the first and second toggle joints substantially simultaneously assume respective dead point positions, when the bar system is moved from a first, unlock position to a second, locked position, and the first and second toggle joints form an angle with respect to one another when in the dead point positions.

Please cancel claims 14-18, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 19-28:

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19. (New) A clamping tool comprising:
a base member;
a bar system including a plurality of mutually pivotal bars mounted to the base member, including:
an activation bar pivotally mounted to the base member;
a rocking bar pivotally mounted to the base member and operatively connected to the activation bar via a first toggle joint;
a clamping member operatively connected to the activation bar via a second toggle joint and pivotally mounted to the rocking bar;
wherein the first and second toggle joints do not pass their respective dead point positions simultaneously when the bar system is moved from a first, unlocked position to a second, locked position;
further wherein the clamping member exerts a first clamping force and a second clamping force when the first and second toggle joints assume their respective dead point positions, and the first clamping force is applied before the second clamping force.

20. (New) The clamping tool of claim 19, wherein the first clamping force is substantially transverse to the second clamping force.

21. (New) The clamping tool of claim 19, further comprising first and second clamping surfaces formed on the clamping member, said first clamping surface being oriented substantially perpendicular to said second clamping surface.

22. (New) The clamping tool of claim 19, wherein the first and second toggle joints each comprise two joints that together form an angle having a vertex that points away from the clamping member when the bar system is in the initial position.

23. (New) The clamping tool of claim 19, wherein the first and second toggle joints each comprise two joints that together form an angle having a vertex that points toward the clamping member when the bar system is in the locked position.

24. (New) The clamping tool of claim 23, wherein the angle is between about 175° and about 180° when the bar system is in the locked position.

25. (New) The clamping tool of claim 19, wherein the bar system comprises:

- a first swivel connection for pivotally connecting a first end of the activation bar to the base;
- a second swivel connection for pivotally connecting a first end of the rocking bar to the base, the second swivel connection located nearer to the clamping member than the first swivel connection;
- a third swivel connection for pivotally connecting a second end of the rocking bar to the clamping bar;

wherein the first toggle joint includes:

- a first joint having a first end pivotally connected to the clamping bar via a fourth swivel connection, the fourth swivel connection located farther from the clamp member than the third swivel connection, and a second end pivotally connected to the activation bar via a fifth swivel connection; and
- a second joint comprising the portion of the activation bar that extends from the fifth swivel connection to the first swivel connection;

further wherein the second toggle joint includes:

- a first joint having a first end pivotally connected to one of the group consisting of the rocking bar and the clamping bar via a sixth swivel connection, and a second end pivotally connected to the activation bar via a seventh swivel connection, the seventh swivel connection located nearer to the clamp member than the first and fifth swivel connections when the bar system is in the locked position; and
- a second joint comprising the portion of the activation bar that extends from the seventh swivel connection to the first swivel connection.